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Address THE CRITIC,

Washington, D. C.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST. For the District of Columbia, Delaware and Maryland, threatening weather and ain; slightly warmer; anotherly winds.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 24, 1800.

Cononess should have no difficulty in fixing the law so that lettery agents would be caught within its toils. Either the Police Court should be empowered to empanel a jury or the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court should be made clear and certain.

IF THE CHARGES which have been made against the Civil Service Commissioners, and which are now under investigation, are sustained, these gentlemen should certainly be expelled. THE CRITIC believes in a proper civil service system, but it does not believe in letting any gullty man escape.

WHAT A singular condition of things is disclosed in the fact that, by reason of the complication and inconsistency of several acts of Congress, the police of Washington are rendered powerless to suppress the lottery business, which is declared by law to be a misdemeanor, or to bring to deserved punishment lottery agents, who, in law, are misdemeanants!

MR. WARNER says ; " Do not assume that our local government is poorly administered." The Chiric has assumed nothing of the kind. Indeed, it has not assumed anything. It has given undeniable facts to prove that there is a great deal of unjust taxation in the District, and that a new system is needed to guarantee justice to the poor as well as the potential.

MR. WARNER should remember that THE CRITIC is striving to secure just and honest taxation. It is making war en no government, no class, no individual. If the tax discrimination were in favor of the small land-owners the position of THE CRITIC would be precisely the same. It so happens that as the case stands the rich and influential, the large land-holders and speculators, furnish the facts upon which THE CRITIC bases its plea.

IT IS HINTED that collusion exists between the Government and the Alaska Commercial Company. This is probably a most unjust insinuation. However, it is a little singular that this company, in making its bid of \$55,000 for the seal fisheries, accompanied it with an unofficial offer "to cover the highest bid of every other syndicate in the field." If this is not collusion, it is an exceedingly peculiar business transaction for the Government of the United States to participate in.

MR. WARNER SAYS: "Property used for purposes making necessary the presence and maintenance of a police force cannot, under any correct principle, be valued for taxation upon the same basis as the attractive and costly residences which are ornaments to the city." If

- Mr. Warner here means to insinuate that the rich do not owe as much to police protection and service as the poorer classes of the community, he is entirely incorrect. If anything, they owe proportionately more. Besides, common people seldom have policemen detailed to call guests' carriages at their receptions, as is customary at the ornamental residences of the West End.

PUBLIC OPINION.

There is no surer safeguard of honesty in the administration of public public affairs than an enlightened opinion, which is now alert and ready to bestow, according to the facts in the case, either condemnation or approval, Nothing more firmly sustains an ad ministrative official in the just and conscientious discharge of duty than the assurance of popular support; and, in like manner, nothing so affects a corrupt and unfaithful public servant with a feeling of disquietude and dread as the sense of widespread dissatisfaction and general censure in regard to his course of action.

As vigilance is the price of liberty, so It may be said with equal truth that an aggressive, self-assertive public sentiment is the condition of good administration in a free community. Where the conscience of the people slumbers injustice grows bold and public wrongs are committed with impunity. Where public spirit decays and dies government becomes corrupt, and where public opinion keeps itself in abeyance or lies dormant bad principles and methods will prevail in the management of public

It is sometimes alleged that there is in the District of Columbia nothing which is properly entitled to be called public opinion, unless it be our esteemed contemporary, the journal of that name. By this it is not meant that public questions. Just the contrary is true, and they exist in very great abundance; because the average of intelligence in this city is greater than that of any other city in the country. For this reason almost every citizen is fitted to form an opinion, and he forms it, too, with knowledge and judgment.

What is claimed is that these abounding individual opinions lack cohesion and cannot be readily or effectively massed; that there are no means of ascertaining their consensus, and that, even if it were ascertained, there is no organized mode of giving it expression. Elsewhere public opinion finds forceful expression in the various elections through which municipal and State officers are chosen. But, on account of the anomalous character of our Government, that mode is not available here.

What should be done, then, to arouse the attention of the citizens of Wash-

WASHINGTON CRITIC degton to matters in which they have a mended to such as extent as to compare adequate and effective expression?

The success which has attended many and its nine sub-committees in the several districts of the city, shows what distinguished from the administrative Evening and Sunday morning, one year, 5 00 of citizens. Through their activity and of merit, and for permanence in the their influence has been felt in procuring municipal reforms, and the ready nccess which their delegated representatives have had to the Congressional official method by which expression may be given to the wishes or grievances of the people.

The main grievance of the city at the present time is the unjust system of assessment in vogue. It is unfair to all classes, and should give place to an adequate and impartial plan. This is a matter which the "Committee of 100" and the several District associations should take up at once and push vigorously to a speedy conclusion. If they do not the people will have to assemble and organize and send their representatives to Congress in their own way, for nothing is more certain than that the fraud by which the rich are benefited at the expense of the poor

NEEDS OF OUR SCHOOLS,

On a recent occasion Superintendent Powell publicly stated a fact in regard to the school system of this city which is of grave significance. He said that out of a school population of 51,000 there were 33,000 pupils in the schools, to accommodate whom all available school-room was severely overtaxed and injuriously overcrowded. The meaning of this statement is that in the District of Columbia, there are 18,-000 children for whom no public schooling is provided, and that for many thousands of those who have been admitted to the schools the provision is altogether inadequate.

Our neighbor and esteemed contemporary, the Sunday Gazette, yesterday published a number of interesting interviews with members of the Board of Trustees in regard to this matter. They all complain of lack of school accommodations. This lack was so pressing last year that \$14,832 was paid for twenty-four rented buildings and thirtyeight rooms necessarily ill-fitted for school work. Notwithstanding the additional room thus secured, over 200 could be accommodated for only halfday tultion.

The High School is so overcrowded that there, too, half day tuition has to be adopted to a considerable extent. To relieve the pressure on this institution it is proposed to erect two additional High Schools-one in West and the other in East Washington. This relief. however, cannot immediately be effected for lack of funds

In addition many of the older schoolill-ventilated, defective in plumbing Yet, in full view of all these facts, the District Appropriation bill as passed by the House allows for new sites and increases the appropriation diminishes. ency plea.

Why Congress should deal in this siggardly fashion with the schools of the District passes comprehension. Economy is commendable, and it is the closely every scheme that threatens to not questionable schemes. The schools efficiency on the liberality of Congress, and they are at least entitled to a just

support. The only resource left to remedy the evil state of things referred to and to increase the appropriation is an appeal to the Senate for an amendment of the bill. This appeal is to be made, and it is to be hoped that it will prove successful. The Senate does not need to be told that money spent on schools is money well expended. Education is not only a necessity of our time, but against the evils that loom up threateningly over the horizon of modern civilization the free scope of a wider and more general education is the only de fense in sight.

THE MERIT SYSTEM. It ought always to be kept in mind that, in discussing modes of appoint ment to the civil service of the Government, most of those who advocate the merit system as being immeasurably fairer, more satisfactory and more suitable than the old patronage system, do not commit themselves to any support of the present Civil Service law or of its regulations and its administra-

It would, indeed, have been strange if the first legislative attempt in that direction had proved at all points a success, and if the law and the system have been shown to be crude and defeetive in many respects, it is only

what might fairly have been expected. One difficulty with which the Civil Service taw has had to contend from the beginning-and is now contending -has arisen from the fact that its opponents, the politicians, who regard the offices simply in the light of past election rewards, never gave it a fair chance. They did not look for the good that was in it. They only saw there are no individual opinions on what was bad. They did not want to see that, by successive amendments and corrections suggested by experience, it might develop into a practical and satisfactory system.

But the popular mind takes little in terest in quibbles about the law's defects or the jarring of the machinery of its administration. It takes the sensible view that the law may be amended and its administration improved. The mind of the people, however, is very clear about one thing, and that is, that the merit system must be retained. To the Civil Service law belongs the credit of beginning what in principle is a revolution in the system of appointments, and it is a revolution | the stock. that will never go backward. Nulla

cestigia retrorsum. The thorough amendment of the law, indeed, is quite in order, and it will, doubtless, be undertaken at the earliest

common interest, and how can this reconstruction from the keel up, the agreement of opinion be given united, | ment principle will prevail only the more, and the restoration of the nation age system will be the more impossible of the efforts of the "Committee of 100" | The amended law will provide for all mission to the purely ministerial, as may be done by voluntary associations offices of the Government on account z at the schools were saved from mis- same, likewise through merit. The management and the present admirable | tenure of office will be assured when system established. In various ways dismissals can only be made for a re-

corded cause. The real controversy in which the people are interested is that between the merit and the patronage principles. As District Committees presents an un- THE CRITIC has heretofore shown, it is a controversy in which Washington is greatly interested, for the permanences in office of a large and important class of citizens means prosperity to the city.

DODGING THE ISSUE.

In his letter, which appears in another column, Mr. Warner shows a marvelous capacity for either misconceiving or evading the point at issue in the contention about assessments. THE Curric maintains that a system of assessment which results in so many and such palpable inequalities as those which it ascertained and published in detail is an unjust system and should be abolished. That is the sole contention.

Mr. Warner endeavors to cloud the issue by a reference to irrelevant matters, such as the competency of the Commissioners, which has not been impugned, the progress and growing attractiveness of the city, which no one denies, and the non-intention of wrong on the part of the individual assessors, against whom nothing has been alleged. These things are outside of the matter and are not in this discussion at all.

Mr. Warner says "there has not been, and there cannot be, any discrimination in the rating between rich and poor." Of course, not in the rating for taxation, but this, too, is irrelevant, for the question is about assessment.

Again, he says there is no apparent necessity for additional burdens. THE CRITIC has not advocated increased burdens. The amount of taxation will be the same whether the general assessment is fair or unfair, the difference being that if the rich are assessed at a low rate and the poot at a high rate the burden of taxation will be unjustly distributed.

But Mr. Warner avows himself the advocate of low assessments for the rich who build handsome residence and improve the city. He gives, apparently, unconscious testimony in favor of THE CRITIC's contention when he says that a large number of propertyholders of moderate means with whom be has bad business connection, have frequently complained to him tha their assessments were too high.

Finally Mr. Warner avows his opposition to a change of system and to a permanent Board of Assessors. What has been characterized in successive houses and all the rented buildings are | reports of District Assessors and Commissioners as an unjust system appears and sewerage and detrimental to health. | to him altogether lovely, and the reform which has been repeatedly recommended by District officials is to him wholly undesirable. We fear Mr. schoolhouses \$89,000 less than last | Warner "is joined to his idols," but at year, the trouble being that as the need | all events he has abandoned the expedi-

The attention which THE CRITIC has aroused in regard to the nefarious duty of Congressmen to scrutinize lottery business done in the District has encouraged the police authorities to re deplete the Treasury. But schools are new their efforts for its suppression.

The difficulty heretofore has been of the District largely depend for their that when an agent of any of the lotteries has been arrested the Police Court was held to have jurisdiction. On a demand for a jury trial, which that court is not empowered to grant, the case was sent to the grand jury and remained buried there.

Now it is thought that under section 763 of the Revised Statutes any judge of the Supreme Court may exercise original jurisdiction and hold a lottery agent to trial.

An arrest is to be made which will be regarded as a test case. If it is successful the gratitude of this community will be due to the police for their intel ligence and zeal in the matter.

THAT A private fortune is a public purse and that socialism is something more than a dream of the masses has been practically demonstrated by the will of the late M Chauteloup of Montreal, the owner of a large brass foundry. His entire fortune of half a million is distributed among his 500 workmen, and the works are to be carried on as before under the direction of his foreman.

A BRITISH SYNDICATE having purchased the stock-yards of Chicago, the query naturally arises: Upon what ground can that city now claim the World's Fair? The spectacle of an American World's Fair environed by an English pig-pen will occasion the Goddess of Liberty to come down from her perch on the Capitol dome and solicit quarters in the crypt.

IT IS SAID THAT Mrs. Langtry has reovered since Gebhard's return to London and will play Rosalind with beauty unim paired and clothes unparalled. As nothing uld improve Mrs. Langtry's acting the affair will be spoken of by the deadhead critics as an immense success.

Ex-COMMISSIONER WEBB stated to a CRITIC reporter that he does not believe that an adequate assessment law can be got from Congress. What reason can the ex-Commissioner give for the lack of faith which is in him!

ME. OBERLY and his civil service bomb-

shell did not put in an appearance this

morning. By the way, who is responsible for these warlike rumors about the mildest mannered man that ever voted a straight ticket. CARDINAL GIBBONS tells the negro that he solution of the race problem lies in religion. The Cardinal is right. It takes

IT IS SAID that the first move of the English syndicate, after purchasing the Chicago stock-yards, will be to wate

a heap of Christian patience to see another

fellow cast your ballot the other way with-

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS all right: I s the system of local assessment that is wrong.

MR. WARNER wanders from the subject opportunity. But even if it should be of the controversy. -

HOW HE LIKED IT HIMSELF

"And is this the girl that my nephew Paul has married," said old Major 1/Es-trange to himself. "Why, she is nothing I ut a child, and a lovely child, too."

and bolores, thing from her plane, stood with large eyes and helghtened color to receive her new uncle.

She was only 16, but she belonged to the heautful Creole race who blossom so early not wemanhood, and she had the dignity of a young princess as she stood there, ail in white, with her jet black hair gathered

into a net of gleaming gold.
Young L'Estrange looked first at his wife and then at his nucle with natural pride. "Here she is, sir!" said he. "My little

And then the old gentleman courtecusty advanced, holding out one slender, ark:o-cratic band, on which gleamed a diamond of rare size and water. "I am very glad to see you, my dear," said be, courteously, and not without a ten-der accent of affection. And from that moment all Dolores' sceret

fear and dread of her husband's uncle vanished. "I am so glad you are not a cross old ab." she said, impulsively.
"Has Paul given me such a bad cleared, as that!" said the old gentlemin,

"Oh, no, no!" cried Dolores, "But he "Oh, no, no!" cried Dolores. "But he always says, "My uncle will like this—my uncle will disapprove of that,' until, don't you see, I have learned to be afraid of this unseen potentate! "But," with a shake of the blue-black curls, "I am not afraid now," Oh, I am sure I shall love you very, very much! Might I kliss you, please!"

"You might try," said the Major, looking very much pleased; and from that moment Major L'Estrange and his niece-in-law were sworn allies and firm friends.

"And you love him very much?" said the "And you love him very much?" said the Mojor, speaking, of course, of the one Prince Charming who had ensuared the

Creole's heart.
"Oh, yes!" cried Dolores. "I am sure,
Uncle Gerald, that there is no one like him all the world. No one!"
'And he is good to you!"

Yes, always. "And you are happy \$"

"Yes, and—except—"
"Hallo" said Uncle Geraid. "Here's a flaw in the diamond—a crumple in the rose-leaves! There ought to be no such thing as an except!"
"There isn't," stoutly maintained Doi-

ores. "Only-"
"It's the same thing," said Uncle Gerald,
shaking his head. "An 'only!" Come, Dolores, what is it? Open confession, remember, is good for the soul. What is the aning of this mysterious 'only? Dolores hung down her head, the ink-black lashes drooped over her peach-blos-

som check.

"It isn't anything at all, Uncle Gerald," said she. "Only—I should like a little money to spend sometimes."

"Eh!" said the Major. "Why how is this? Paul isn't a miser, I hope."

"Not in the least," cried Dolores. "But—but—I hardly know how to explain myself—he thinks I ought to come to him for every penny I spend. He thinks I should keep within a certain limit. Of course he's right, but it's a little hard sometimes. There's no need for a woman's spending money, he says."

money, he says." ented the Major. "Ah!" commented the Major.
"And I wanted some bon-bons dreadfully yesterday," said Dolores, laughing
and bluebing. "Of course it's ridicalous—
a grown woman like me wanting bon-bons,
like a child; but indeed, Uncle Gerald, I
couldn't help it; and I was ashamed to sak
Pant for a deliar to buy French condisa dollar to buy French candle with; and if there's an organ-grinder, or teggar, or a poor woman selling button and shoe strings, why, I have my rings and my ribbons and my bracelets, but nothing The Major smiled and stroked his white

silk heard as he sat there in the bamboo chair in the shadow of the sweet Southern ssion-vines.
'It is a hard case,'' said he.
'Yee, isn't it?'' cried Dolores, earnestly. "I told Paul be ought to give me a regular

"I told Paul he ought to give me a regular sum for pin-money, but he only laughs at me, and says I am a little goose. How would he like it himself, I wouder?" "An!" said the Major; "how, indeed?" "And flowers!" cried Dolores, clasping her hands. "There was a flower-girl along yesterday with the sweetest Japan lilies and tuberoses—and I could not buy one! And tuberoses always make me think of beautiful New Orleans. Oh, Uncle Gerald, I did so want those waxen darlings! But Paul says it makes a woman extravagant to have all the money she wants! Would the tuberoses have been extravagant, Uncle

"No," said the old gentleman, looking at the beautiful speaking face. "I don't think they would. But now, little Dolores, there comes your pony up the drive. Go for your airing, and leave me to sleep,"
But the Major did not sleep at all. He meditated. He faced the financial problem of the L'Estrange household, and resolved to conquer it.

Paul L'Estrange came up from the city would not be nearly as arbitrary in their

Paul L'Estrange came up from the city that evening in excellent spirits. "My dear uncle," he said, "I shall have to call on your generosity once again. Only fancy my meeting Hall and Ovington on the parade this afternoon! And they tell me that Colonel Praed and young Jennings are in town also. So I have just ordered a little bachelor supper at Auranio's for to-morrow evening." "Ah?" said Major L'Estrange.

"I looked at that chestnut mare, sir, added Paul. "She is simply perfect, so lold the man to bring her up here. I ar to have her for \$375. It's a bargain."

Paul I. Estrange turned quickly around nd looked at his uncle.

"Is anything the matter, sire" said he.

"The matter? No. Why should there

Only your tone was so peculiar-that Well, to tell the truth, I was thinking. said Major L'Estrange.
"Of what, sir?" questioned Paul. "Of where you meant to get the money o pay for all these things," dryly aued the old man.

"Why, from you, of course!" said Paul, balf puzzled, half amused. "You have always given me all the money I wanted." "But that is no sign that I shall always continue to do so," deliberately remarked the old gentlemen. "Look here, Paul, I am thinking of turning over a new leaf." am thinking of turning over a new leaf.'

"I don't understand you, sir!"
"Don't you? Then I must endeavor to elucidate my meaning a little. The money is mine, ian't it?" "Most assuredly it is," Paul answered, with knitted brows. Well, then, I have a right to deal it out as I please. And I am seriously thinking of stopping your allowance." -stopping my allowance, Uncle Ger-

"Yes. If you want anything you can "res. If you want anything you can come to me for it, you know."

"Like a school-boy, Uncle Gerald!" cried the young man, with crimsoning temples.

"Why not?" serenely questioned the old gentleman. "Do you know, I've an idea that it makes a man extravagant to have the handling of too much money. That, I believe, is your opinion, also."

believe, is your opinion, also."
"Mine, ch?" echoed Paul.
"It is what you tell your wife," said
Uncle L'Estrange, with a twitch of the orners of his mo

Paul looked puzzled.

"But she is a woman, sir!"

"And eroo, she has no wants! Is that logic, my boy!"

"I am always ready to give her anything she wants!" exclaimed the young man.

"Exactly the platform which I occupy in respect to you." said Gerald. "And yet respect to you," said Gerald. "And yet you don't seem satisfied with the arrange-ment I propose. Come! Let's te judicial, my boy. Let us be perfectly impartial. my boy. Let us be perfectly impartial. Fiat justitia, ruat celium, you know! If my nicce's money is to be dealt out to her a penny at a time, so must my nephew's!"

"My dear uncle," cried Faul, jumping up, "I never looked at the thing in that light before. My noor, little Dolores! What ight before. My poor, little Dolores! What a sordid old miser I must have appeared to ser! Why didn't some one do me the favor

to tell me what an egregious idiot I was making of myself? What shall I do, Uncle Gerald? Shall I make her a regular al-lowance—so much a week?" "I dare say we shall find some satisfactory method of adjusting the balance," said Major L'Estrange, with a smile. "It's a sort of ad hominem argument, this of mine, I must confess; but it was a real trouble to little Dolores, and so I thought I would just hold up a looking glass to you. Nephew Paul. But don't look so grave; you shall have your supper at Authors other little luxuries of life which have the market man, the dry goods man, and those other little luxuries of life which have

grown to be incressities to you. But Dolo-res a ust have her bon-bons and flowers and little charity coins also. As I said February 22, 1800.

b With all my heart, uncle," said Paul, And so little Dolores won her cause after She came to her uncle the next day.

"Oh, uncle?" she said, "I am so sorry I d you that about Paul."

"Why, my dear?" saked the Major.

"Breause we have talked the matter all over," said Dolores, "and he is so good. I am to have a regular allowance, all of my own. Isn't be spiendid! And I wouldn't have him think I complained of him tor all

"Don't be afraid, my dear," said the Major. "It shall be a state secret between us two forever and a day. And you are sure you're quite happy now!"
"Oh. yes, quite," declared Dolores, with But she did not know that Uncle Gerald

was the megician who had wrought this wonderful change, - New York Ledger, MR. WARNER COMES BACK.

Editor Critic: You make it appear it your editorial paralleling that I reflected unfavorably upon our local government. Permit me to say, in plain Engl's's, that I consider our municipal affairs have been of late years exceedingly well administered; that our Commissioners have been, as a rule, exceptionally high toned and competent men, who have conscientiously worked for the good of the District and its inhabitants. They have been human, afflicted with the same traits that marked their fellow citizens, deriving power from a legislative body disposed to criticize, as well as economize, and without the slightest accountability to the people affected by the exercise of their law-making functions. On the other hand, they have been under the survelliance of thousands of private critics, the fatherhood of whose sentiments could be easily traced to personal interests, and whose accusations have had weight and influence with Congress. have progressed, however; all our institutions have improved; de'ce's have been remedled; our city grown more attractive in every feature; our sinking fund increased in size; our revenue for annual expenditures larger. Outsiders have been more or less influenced in locating here by the permanency and security which characterizes our local government, and the absence of political conditions which in many other cities jeopardize

social as well as financial interests. A large number of people of moderate means have located here for reasons of health and pleasure. In many cases, to my knowledge, investments have been made because our burdens from taxation were moderate and not extreme. There is less reason now for heavy taxation than ever existed before, the demands of our local treasury are not only met, but we have something to spare for such unlooked for contingencies as are always calling for appropriations in a rapidly

growing city; our sinking fundls annually preparing to liquidate our indebtedness, and our permanent taxable wealth is being wonderfully enlarged. Now, with no a parent necessity for additional burdens why advocate them? They will fall heagles upon those of limited means, large taxe upon centrally located property, till the owner whose income is so small that he must sell and go out to the suburbs where the load will be lighter.

There has not been and there cannot be ny discrimination in the rating between he poor and the rich. Every proper v owner has the right of appeal when valuere changed, and what assessor or Board of Revision would discriminate between taxpayers because of wealth or influence?

Human judgment is imperfect, but take our whole tax list and examine it carefully and the average will be in favor of the judgment and integrity of the rating.
I have been well acquainted with hundreds of tax payers for years, my business connections have bren largely with men of moderate means in all sections of the city

and the complaints to which I have listened have becu, as a rule, because of assessments that were too high. I have known owners to part with their property in hundreds of cases for this reason. I am in favor of our present system of assessments as oppo appointment of a permanent Board of As-

would not be nearly as arbitrary in their judgment as those permanently imbedded in official powers, then information would come from a widely-diffused experience. I would be in favor of a law limiting the values at which fine residences and costly buildings should be taxed, so that the man who contributed to the adornment and attractiveness of this great city should not be compelled to pay for his enterprise and public spirit many times more than the property-owner whose adjacent possessions occupying the same era are allowed to remain unimproved and often in a disgraceful condition; to remit taxes upon manufacturing establishments for the first few years of their existence.

years of their existence. The assessment of lots should not be doubled just because they are ornamented doubled just because they are ornamented by fine buildings.

Taxation should not be laid as a penalty for improvements, or a discouragement to enterprise. Baltimore is groaning under the burden of high taxes; its prosperity is relarded, and its future uncertain.

It may be a good thing to discuss taxation as a question, but do not assume that our local government is nearly administrated. local government is poorly administered; that because of some defects our whole system is imperfect; that the high fig-ires incident to a boom, should be taken as the basis in making assessments that our assessors who have been as a rule, honest and intelligent citizens, have discrin inated intentionally against any class; that the cash value of real estate in making up the assessment list should be determined by what one piece would bring if exposed for sale under the most advantageous circumstances. What would a reasonable amount of property bring exposed to public suction to pay the tax Values would shrink from 2 to 50 per cent, with the opening of such sale. We think differently, and I unite for the other side." Yours truly,
B. H. WARNER. , and I unite for

MR. WARNER'S FALLACIES.

Editor Critic: There is one statement in Mr. B. H. Warner's letter, published in THE CETTIC of the 21st, which should not go unchallenged. He says: "Thousands of good citizens live in Washington without paying a dollar in the way of taxation." Now this popular fallacy has so often been exploded that it is surprising that a mau so intelligent as Mr. Warner should have again advanced it. As one of the "good citizens" of the class he refers to, I desire on their behalf to resent the unfair charge that we enjoy the benefits provided by local taxation without contributing our full share of

such taxation. By way of illustration, we would ask Mr. Warner whether he does not try show an investor to whom he wishes to sel a house and lot, in his capacity as real estate agent or owner, how much interest or rich profit will remain to the luvestor after taxes, insurance, repairs and commissions have been paid for? The investor will ask: "But where is the money to come from for all this?" Mr. Warner will say: "Why, from the rent, of course." But the tenant—the "good citizen" pays the rent, therefore the "good citizen" not only pays the entire repairs, but rance, commission and taxes on the house he does not own, but, over and above all these, a greater or less profit or interest to the owner. If, as The Carric states, the smaller paces of propestate agent or owner, how much interes CRITIC states, the smaller pieces of thirtic states, the smaller pieces of property are more heavily laxed, in proportion, than the larger, then these "thousands of good citizens" without real property, who, as a rule, occupy these small houses as tenants, do bear faxillon, and more than their just share.

In the same way we pay our share of the local taxa which are leaded on the record.

dear gas company, none of whom ever for-gets to include the taxes they pay in the price they charge us for the article for-clahed

POPULAR MEN IN TOWN

Adjutant-General J. G. Farnsworth the New York State militia is at the Arling ton. The General looks a little older than he did when last in Washington, but he stil one the same erect carriage that become him so well, and his eyes have not lost any

Charles L. Davis, the actor and manager, is at Willard's. Mr. Davis a short, stout man, as his pictures, which have been scattered broadcast throughout the city, indicate, and, although his abilities as an actor are said to be just a shade lower than Edwin Booth's, he is known as a good fellowing the shade by a way to be diamonis. ow, and probably owns more diamonds han any other theatrical man in the coun-ry. He wears these diamonds on all or ons, too, and for that reason is a much

California's leading female lawyer, Miss California's leading female lawyer, Miss Foltz, is another of the guests at Willard's. This is her maiden name. She is one of the best speakers in the West, and has frequently stumped her State in the interest of certain candidates. Her family is remarked for its powers of eloquence; her brothers are good orators, but none of them excel her. As an attorner she is also a great success. She is here to attend a woman's convention which is to be here. man's convention which is to be held at Willard's this week.

Hon. S. Beatle, formerly surveyor of the port of New York and now one of the lead-ing men of Tammany Hall, into which party he flopped from the County Democracy after that faction was overwhelmingly de-feated at the last election, is at Chamber-lin's. Mr. Beatie's handsome mustache is just as pretty as ever, and he is as polite as he was when he gracefully turned away the olitical strikers who were in the ha

Another of the guests at Chamberlin's is one of Austria's noblemen. He is the Count R. A. Lewenhaupt, and is only about 25 years of age. He is of a modest, retiring disposition, and is seldom seen in the corridors of the hotel. His business here is with the Austrian Legation.

Three very well-known New Yorkers aramong the guests at this house. The William H. Johnstone, president Willam H. Johnstone, president of the American Specialty Company, in the Fifth-Avenue Hotel; General Roome, formerly president of the Consolidated Gas Company of New York, and F. K. Smith. These gentlemen are here for the purpose of introducing a new patented process for making ice, which they recently purchased. By this process ice is made by pouring water over a certain kind of sailt. The sait can be used ways times before its residence. be used many times before its usefulness is gone, and the invention is looked upon as one of the greatest of the year.

The Hop, William McKinley returned t the Bobt. William McKilney returned to the Ebbitt House last night from Fortress Monroe, where he had gone to nurse a bad attack of the grip. Mr. McKilney looked pale when he got into the hotel last night, but he has almost completely recovered from his illness, and said he was much better.

Mr. R. H. Ryan, who is probably the richest cotton dealer in the South, arrived at the Ebbitt House to-day. Besides being engaged in the cotton business he is also an extensive owner of real estate, both in this city and in Charleston, and is a very popular man socially.

Mr. H. Hallthusen of Colorado Springs, Col., one of the largest wool buyers in the West and who now has several million pounds on his hands, is at the Ebbitt. He came to Washington to sound around among the tariff men and see what prossmong the tariff men and see what pros-pect there was for early consideration of the Tariff bill. He will leave for home to-morrow, having been given to understand that there will probably be no tariff work done by Congress until May or June. Mr. Hallthusen will, however, continue to spend his money in sheep fleeces and take the chances.

Mr. A. C. Mather, of Chicago, is at the Normandie. He is a very well known resi-dent of that town, and like many of his fel-low Chicagns is here to help along the World's Fair boom for that city.

Mr. J. F. Salter, one of Brooklyn's best known citizens, arrived at the Riggs House last night. Mr. Salter is a frequent visitor to Washington, and is almost as well known

Mr. and Mrs. George Broderick, who made so many friends in Washington during their long season here with the Lamont Opera Company last summer, are at the Randall. Mrs. Broderick (Mabella Baker) is one of the leading members of the "Gondollers" company.

INGERSOLL'S EPIGRAMS

Oh, what an orator is love! What honeyed words run over the rose of his lips! Epithets are so cheap that you can make oney on lies at 50 cents a hundred. People who are fond of music are som imes dangerous.

I think any woman in the world is repaid for an ordinary breach of promise by being taken to hear Wagner's music. I'll go as far as anyone to whip naked

through the world the man who deceives a good, pure and confiding woman. Every heart is like a theatre in one respect; there are certain effects produced, but you don't want every one to see all the ropes and pulleys.

The woman who marries a man because he is rich, or for a title, or for office, place or power, is not a virtuous woman, and the man who marries a woman for any such reason is not a virtuous man, but a contemptible wretch.

A marriage without love is immoral. don't care how many forms you go brough, I don't care if all the churches in he world, united beneath the dome of Heaven, filling all the air with insense, pro-nounce them wedded, if that sweet perfune called love does not arise there is no mar-

ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

St. Martin's Lane winds up the hill And trends a devious way; I walk therein amid the din Of busy London day-I walk where wealth and squalor meet, And think upon a time When others trod this saintly sod And heard St. Martin's chime.

But when those solemn bells invoke

The midnight's siumbrous grace, The ghosts of men come back again To haunt that curious place; The ghosts of sages, poets, wits Come back in goodly train, And all night long with mirth and song They walk St. Martin's Lane. There's Jerrold paired with Thackeray-Maginn and Thomas Moore,
And here and there and everywhere
Fractians by the score;
And one wee ghost that climbs the hill
Is welcomed with a shout—

No king could be revered as he, The padre, Father Prout! They banter up and down the street And clamor at the door Of youder inn, which once has been The scene of mirth galore; 'Tis now a lonely, musty shell, Deserted, like to fall;

And echo mocks their ghostly knocks And iterates their call. Come back, thou ghost of ruddy host! From Pluto's misty shore— Renew to night the keen delight Of by-gone years once more; Brew for this merry, moticy horde, And serve the steaming cheer, And grant that I may lurk hard by To see the mirth, and hear.

To others childish vain To others childish valu.
And yet at night 'tis my delight
To walk St. Martin's Lane:
For, in the light of other days,
I walk with those I love.
And, all the time. St. Martin's chime Makes piteous moan above.

— Eugene Field.

Ah me! I dream what things may seem

HATTON AND HEWITT.

THEIR CHARGES AGAINST THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Campbell's Disposition of the Oncetions...Mis Subsequent Promotion... Roosevelt and Thompson Implica-ted...No Conclusions Arrived At.

The announcement that ex Commissioner of the Civil Service J. H Oberly would appear as a witness before the House committee to day in the investigation as to the irregularities existing in the service with a bomb-shell of startling testimony had the effect of drawing a crowd of curlosity seekers to the committee room on the ground floor of the Capitol building. Chairman Lehlbach of New Jersey appeared surprised that such a rumor had gained currency, as no arrange-ments had been made, or even suggested, to examine witnesses to day and soid that no examination would

take place in consequence.

After reading the minutes of the last meeting the clerk was instructed to read the specific charges as preferred by Mr. Hewitt, the prosecuting at-

The specific charges as arranged by Mr. Hewitt are: First. That on the — of April, 1889, with-out authority by law, Charles Lyman, one of the Civil Service Commission, when act-ing as sole Commissioner, promoted Alex-ander C. Campbell, a brother-in-law of his, to a \$1,300 clerkehip in the Civil Service Commission.

Second. That the said Alexander C. Campbell, about the month of January, 1888, secretly abstracted from the files of 1888, secretly abstracted from the files of the Secretary's division a list of the questions that had been used in the examination of applicants for positions in the departmental service and gave them to a copyist in the Pension Office preparing for promotion to the position of cierk, who turned them over to one Flynn of the Ivy Institute of this city.

Third. That the promotion of the said Alexander C. Campbell was made by the said Charles Lyman with the full knowledge that he had abstracted these questions from the files of the secretary's division.

from the files of the secretary's division Fourth. That on the appointment of Theodore Roosevelt and Hugh S. Thompson as Commissioners, the attention of these Commissioners was called to the fact of Campbell's abstraction of examination questions, but that the Commissioners reused to investigate the matter any further than to examine the party charged with the offense and the secretary of the Com-mission, who stated that he (Campbell) had been investigated and censured for the of

Fifth, That Alexander C. Campbell is still illegally retained as a clerk in the Civil Service Commission. It is further charged:

That Edwin D. Bailey in violation of the livil Service law, which Inhibits the pro-Civil Service law, which inhibits the promotion of persons in the classified service until examination, was promoted by the Commission without examination to test his fitness, as required by law, from a clerkship to a position of stenographer, an important place in the Commission, when it was notoriously known that the said Bailey was not competent to fill the said position of stenographer. position of stenographer. It is further charged-

Second. That this promotion was made when there were several other clerks in the commission who were expert stenogra-phers, and under the principle governing promotions undoubtedly entitled to the

That, with the knowledge of its mem-bers, on the 19th of September, 1889. Thomas Mitchell of Connecticut was appointed to a position in the Pension Office as a copylst; that Mitchell, on Sep-tember 30, 1887, was dismissed from the service for cause; that Mitchell failed in his examination held prior to his last appointment, and that this failure be-coming known to the parties desiring his restoration to the service, his papers were re-marked, and be was raised from the inligible to the eligible list. It is still further charged:

That Theodore Roosevelt, a member of ie Commission, secured the appointment of Hamilton Shidy to a place in the Census Bureau, when it was known to Commis-sioner Roosvelt that Shidy, an officer of the Service Commiss the Board of Local Examiners of the office at Milwaukee, had persistently and repeatedly violated his oath of office by making false certifications and in not recorring violations of the Civil Service law by the postmaster at Milwaukee to the Commissioners at Washington.

That the action on Commissioner Roos celt's part was made with the full knowl-dge and consent of the other members of

It is further charged: That the Civil Service Commission, since

its organization to the present time, has, by the manipulation of the rules and regu-lations, brought about results in violation of the spirit and letter of the law Second. That by collusion with Depart-mental officers appointments have been made in violation of the "merit system" as

provided by the law, and that favorites have secured places, with little reference to their qualifications. That persons, relatives of the officers of the commission, have been attached to the the commission, have been attached to the commission, gaining a knowledge of the secrets of the commission, handling the records of the Government—a privilege de-nied Senators and Representatives—with-out compensation and in direct violation of

aw. That offenses which resulted in the dismissal of officers of one political party were condoned when committed by officers of he other political party. Mr. Hewitt was asked by the chair man how he desired to proceed with the prosecution, and said he desired to take up the charges in order. He said he would prepare a list of names of witnesses necessary to be on hand dur-

ing the investigation; that it was a sheer waste of time to call on so unnecessary witnesses, that three quarters of an hour a day instead of three hours should be all the time required to examine these wit-The committee decided to conduct the examination themselves and thought by that means to facilitate matters. There was an indisposition on the

part of the committee to conduct the in-

vestigation at night. It was decided to

hold the next investigation at 10 o'clock

next Wednesday morning. The committee then went into executive session.

WITH THE WITS. Manager—Well, things look very pros-perous. The new piece has made a big hit. Puffer—What makes you think the piece Manager-The demand for passes .-

Wife—I don't see how a married man like you can run around after an actress. Hubby—Walt till I just show you her photograph.- Epoch.

Wife-Where have you been this evening, John? Husband—I went over to see Jack Hardy,

Wife—Well, did you see him?

Husband—No; he raised my every time
so high that I couldn't stay in.—Judge. Little Edith-Mamma, did you say that we should all know each other in Heaven's Mamma—Yes, my child. Little Edith—You can play that you're cut, though, can't you mamma, when peo-ple call that you don't want to see?—Kings-

THEY ALL WANT "OLD KEN FUCKY.

14 Um-m-e.23 "A whoosky."

"Gim'me some of the old stuff." "Coffin varnish," "cramp discourager "A poly," "a shooter," "best yer got," "Skyrocket," "old flag," "snake lle,"

"A little something to warm a man

In the Sena'e this morning Senator Chandler Introduced a resolution to centure Senator Call for inserting in the record as part of his remarks on the Florida assessibilities debate lassweek the charge that Mr. Chandler, he cause of his speeches in the Senate, was responsible for the political murders in Florida. Mr. Chandler produced the original copy, showing the attractions in Mr. Calls own hundwriting. He made a very office speech against Mr. Call, to which the Florida cenator responded. The Senate will decide to morrow which committee to refer the resolution to. mittee to refer the resolution to.

CHADNLER ATTACKS CALL,

Interesting Debate in the Sanate on Florida Assessinations,

In the Senate this morning Senator

The preamble and resolution to.

The preamble and resolution presented by Mr. Chandler stated that the Senator from Florida had charged him to devate with personal responsibility for the outraging of women and the murdering of children and the destruction of the happiness of household in the South by men who were in the South by men who were the emissaries behind him, and that the Senator had, in addition, inserted the fol-lowing paragraph which he had not

The blood of Sannders, if the evidence the blood of Sainders, it the evidence shall show his death was in any way connected with the prosecutions in the United States courts, will rest on his conscience. The shricking ghosts of outraged and murdered women and children, the victims of the wild lusts and passions of a race, who owe all that they know of religion and civilization to the Southern white people, and not to the Seustor from New Hampshire, with distrust his sleeping and his waking boars. Like Banqur's ghost, it will not down; and the ocean will not wash his blood-stained hands from the guilt of the rape and murder of these tender white women and children." The resolution condemns such action as a breach of privilege for what the Senator

(Mr. Call) is consured, and orders the words so inserted and the paragraph he Mr. Call, defending his course, stated simply changed the phraseology he had a right to do under the established precedent of the Senate. He character-ized the conduct of Mr. Chandextraordinary ler as "an extraordinary per-formance." The report of his speech as it came to him was not full and accurate, and he had inserted remarks which had been reade by him in debate, but which the

official reporter had omblied.

Messis, Teller, Harris, Hoar, Vest and
Sherman participated in a brief debate
which followed. The resolution finally went over until to-morrow.

DISTRICT LEGISLATION.

Measures Reported Adversely by Sen-Senator Faulkuer of the Senate Dis-trict of Columbia Committee to day reported favorably the amendment proposed by Senator Blackburn to the bill to extend the ordinances of the city of Washington to the rest of the District of Columbia. The amendment consisted of the inscrtize

of the following: of the following:
"That this act shall not be construct to interfere with the right of the Washington Jockey Club now chartered under the laws of the District to sell pools at the track of said club at the time of their meeting not to exceed thirty days."
This Secretor also reported advanced.

This Senator also reported adversely his own bill, which was to extend the city ordinances to Georgetown, etc.
The bill relating to the selling of liquor in the District, which has already been published in THE CRITIC, was reported favorably by Senator Faulkner.

TO MAKE ICE.

Organization of the Century Ice Machine Company, There has recently been incorporated under the laws of the State of West Virginia a company under the above title, the domicile of which is in the city of Wash-

There are already a great many ice machine companies and machines for refrigera-tion and cold storage, but all of them use chemicals in their operation, which are dangerous and expensive. The patents which this company owa

are the inventions of Hector von Bayer of this city, who seemingly has entered new fields and upon new principles, for this system does away entirely with the use of ammonia or any chemicals whatever, em-ploying only pure atmosphere. The machine costs less to operate than any other now in existence, and can be used for hotels, butchers, dairies, or pri-vate houses, as well as for large establish-ments for ice-making or cold storage.

If all that is claimed for this system can

practically and successfully demon-ated on a large scale, as is shown in the one-half horse power machine which the company has on exhibition, it is, indeed, a wonder, and a great future awaits it. Much interest has been manifested by those familiar with such machines, and who know and appreciate the value and need of a machine which can dispense with the use of ammonia.

The company is fully organized, with a board of directors of well-known and prom-

inent Washingtonians, and the company expect to get down at once to solid work and build a machine on a large scale here as soon as they can secure by purchase a suitable lot upon which to erect their A prominent and influential public man has become largely interested in the com-pany upon the merits of the machine, and other active, business men from other large other active, business men from other large cities have come here to interest themselves

in the company and to arrange to organ

ze suxiliary companies in New York and

MR. LODGE'S DISCOVERY.

Congressman Lodge has discovered in early records of the House several instances of such action by the Speaker as Mr. Reed bas lately taken. We must go back to the early Corgresses, which contained many men who had been members of the Constitutional Convention, for those Interpretations of the Constitution which show the real motive and meaning of its provisions. The records Mr. Lodge has found mean simply this: That the Constitution, in giv-ing Congress power to authorize less than ing Congress power to authorize less than a quorum to compel the attendance of absent members, made and intended to make a quorum dependent on attendance simply, and not on a member's will whether or not to act. The Constitution said a quorum should consist of so many members, and when a House found itself with an insufficient number, it might send out and forcibly procure as many members as were needed to make a quorum. The Constitution recognized that it could not compel members to act, but it could compel them to attend. What it could do, it did do. Mr. Reed has simply revived the condo. Mr Reed has simply revived the constitutional practice.—New York Tribune.

ANTIPATHIES. Le Mothe de Nover delighted in hearing thunder, but could not bear the sound of any musical instrument. Though passionately fond of a dog, Henry III. would faint at the sight of a cat; so, too, would the Duke of Schomberg.

Scaliger, who tells of his relative's weakness, could not endure water cress; neither he nor Peter of Albano could drink milk. Emperor Augustus had a mortal dread of thunder, and would retire to a vault built for the purpose at the approach of the smallest thunder clouds.

Marebal Breze once shot and killed a companion while rabbit hunting, and ever afterward would faint at the sight of one of those barmless little animals. Vaughelm, the famous Hanovarian sportsman, slow wild boars by the hun-

dreds, but ran away from a table upon which there was a roasted pig, or fainted if unable to heat a retreat. The smell of fresh fish threw Erasmus into a fever, and King Viadislas of Poland declared that he would rather meet 1,000 straed for than be confined in a room with

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a rue of apples.